

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 /086 W
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R 161434Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5957
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0150

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, BY
SUBJ: BURUNDI VIEWS ON OAU RECOGNITION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT

REF : STATE 33892

1. WHILE TALKING ON FEB 15 WITH SIGUJEJE, NUMBER TWO AT BURUNDI FONOFF, ABOUT ATTENDANCE OF BURUNDIAN DELEGATIONS AT MULTILATERAL MEETINGS IN NEAR FUTURE, HE NOTED THAT FONMIN MUGANGA WOULD CERTAINLY BE PRESENT AT OAU FONMIN MEETING IN LOME ON FEB 28. I SAID I HAD HEARD CERTAIN ISSUES RELATED TO RECOGNITION OF ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS BY OAU MIGHT ARISE. HE OBSERVED THAT MEETING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE LIMITED TO BUDGETARY AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION MATTERS, BUT ADDED THAT SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INTRUDE. SINCE THERE IS NO RESIDENT UK AMBASSADOR IN BURUNDI, I THEN MADE TALKING POINTS IN REFTEL ABOUT UNDESIRABILITY OF EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION BY OAU OF PATRIOTIC FRONT. SIGUJEJE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW VIEWS OF FONMIN, BUT HE PERSONALLY FAVORED AVOIDING OAU PRONOUNCEMENTS ON DELICATE INTERNAL SITUATIONS IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. OAU HAD STARTED OUT CORRECTLY IN ANGOLA BY ASSERTING NEUTRALITY AMONG CONTENDING FACTIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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EVEN THOUGH SITUATION HAD SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED THERE. THE OAU'S OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO ENLIST ALL GROUPS IN ZIMBABWE TO FIGHT TO REALIZE MAJORITY RULE. I AGREED WITH HIS COMMENTS AND SAID I HOPED HE WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK TO THE FONMIN ALONG THOSE LINES.

2. COMMENT: EVEN IF FONMIN MUGANGA DOES SHARE SIGUJEJE'S

VIEWS, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT BURUNDI WOULD TAKE ANY LEAD
IN OAU CIRCLES TO FIGHT FOR THIS LINE. HOWEVER, IT MIGHT
BE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH OTHERS SIMILARLY MINDED,
AND PARTICULARLY WITH ITS PARTNERS IN TRIPARTITE GREAT LAKES
COMMUNITY, ZAIRE AND RWANDA. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE
INSTITUTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE YET AT THE POINT WHERE
REGULAR CONSULTATION BEFORE OAU MEETINGS WILL OCCURE, BUT
IT IS SOMETHING WHICH ZAIRE, WHICH I BELIEVE ACCEPTS THE
UK VIEW, MIGHT BE WILLING TO PUSH WITH BURUNDI.
MARK

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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